

Kampiles

Kampiles Admitted He Sold Data to Soviets, FBI Agent Says

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HAMMOND, Ind. — An FBI agent testified yesterday that spy suspect William Kampiles, head buried in his hands, confessed to him last August that he had sold a top-secret spy-satellite manual to the Russians for \$3,000.

Kampiles had been insisting he had "conned" the Russians out of their money, but "I told him I didn't believe his story," James K. Murphy said in a dramatic courtroom replay of his questioning of Kampiles last Aug. 15. "I told him there was no way in the world anyone would believe him if I didn't."

At that, Murphy testified, Kampiles, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer who quit in frustration last year, put his hands to his face and, after a long pause, acknowledged:

"You're right, I haven't told you the truth. I actually stole a document and sold it to the Russians."

The FBI agent said Kampiles went on to tell him that what he had taken was the KH 11 technical manual, a handbook describing the capabilities of the Keyhole 11 reconnaissance satellite which can photograph

Russian missile sites from altitudes of 100 miles.

The son of Greek immigrants who was arrested at his apartment near here two days after his interrogation by Murphy, Kampiles, 23, is no wistful, trial U.S. District Court on charges of espionage. He is contending once again that he gave the Russians nothing but promises for their money.

Kampiles has acknowledged meeting with a Soviet agent named "Michael" four times on a trip to Athens last winter, but he maintains that he was simply playing out an impulsive dream of outsmarting the Russians and resurrecting a career as an undercover agent for the CIA in Greece.

FBI agent Murphy said Kampiles told him the same story at first during lengthy interrogation at the Washington field office of the bureau last summer. But according to Murphy, the former CIA watch officer finally broke down after being confronted with a number of inconsistencies in his account.

Murphy said Kampiles told him he had purloined the manual from the CIA Operations Center, where he worked last year, stuffing it in the left-hand pocket of a sports jacket he was wearing.

"He stated that particular document interested him and he had some vague idea of selling it to the Soviets," Murphy testified. "He stated that he was aware it was a violation of the espionage laws."

An unexpurgated copy of the top-secret manual was admitted into evidence later in the day under extraordinary and perhaps unprecedented conditions. Reporters covering the trial had submitted a petition to U.S. District Court Judge Phil M. McNagny asking that all documents admitted into evidence and shown to the jury, particularly the KH-11 manual, be made public in light of the constitutional guarantee of a "public trial."

McNagny announced from the bench yesterday afternoon that "under no circumstances will the court grant the request." An expurgated copy of the manual, with some "extraordinarily sensitive" numerical tables and geographical references deleted, is expected to be shown to the jury, but the judge said he would not let the press see the censored copy either.

A study by the Senate Intelligence Committee has indicated that in the past, espionage cases were dropped precisely because classified documents and information would have had to have been made public, but McNagny

told a reporter that this never happened "in the northern district of Indiana." He said he saw no reason why the government should not be able to prosecute someone for espionage without revealing classified secrets.

The CIA was not even aware that the Operations Center's copy of the manual was missing until Kampiles' reported confession. He had belatedly come to official attention in August, only because he had offered months earlier to tell the CIA of his contacts with Michael, first in a conversation with a colleague at the agency and then in a letter which went unanswered for weeks. He said the Russians had tried to enlist him for \$3,000 and suggested that he could play them along while actually going to work again for the CIA.

The first witness to testify yesterday, Vivian Psachos, who works in the Soviet section of the CIA's Operations Directorate, said she interviewed Kampiles last Aug. 14 in a room at the Twin Bridges Marriott Motel in Alexandria along with a CIA security officer and two other FBI agents.

She said he made no incriminating statements then and was the first one to mention the KH-11, when asked a general question about "what access he had to defense information" while he was at the CIA.

"Bill replied that on occasion, he saw reporting on, and photographs of, the KK-11 spy satellite," Psachos testified. She said Kampiles also claimed that "he had not mentioned to 'Michael' anything about the KM-11."

At that point, Psachos indicated that she, for one, was prepared to believe other trip to Athens on Aug. 18, and him even though he was planning apparently another rendezvous with Michael. She said that at lunch together on Aug. 14, Kampiles asked her, "Have I done anything wrong?"

Under questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney James Richmond, Psachos, a CIA operations research officer, said she told Kampiles "his a— would be in a sling" if he had gone back to Greece and established secret contact with Michael again. She said she meant to suggest by that that she thought the agency would overlook his professedly naive encounters the previous winter.

Towards the end of the questioning

on Aug. 14, however, Psachos said that one of the two FBI agents present then, Donald E. Stukley, pointed out t hat in 10 years of counterintelligence work, "he had never known the Soviets to hand over that large a sum of money without getting something in return."

Kampiles still held to his original story, which revolved around a \$3,000 advance from "Michael" and the promise of \$10,000 each for future deliveries of classified documents on a twice-a-year basis. But at the same time, the court was told, he agreed to a "re-interview" the next day by the FBI. Murphy, who usually handles bank robberies, kidnappings and the like, was enlisted for the chore.

Contrary to Kampiles' initial story of wandering into the Soviet embassy one night with some drinks under his belt and then being larcenously sound-out by "Michael," the FBI agent said Kampiles told him he simply walked up the steps of the embassy one evening last February and told an elderly man he encountered there that "he had information that would be valuable to the Russians."